

Spook House

Glass Breaks

By JOSEPH V. PHILLIPS
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PORTSMOUTH—A china closet or glass shattered in a so-called haunted house here Tuesday while a scientist sought the cause of numerous cases of inexplicable flying objects.

The three other occupants of the house at 949 Florida Ave. said no one was in the room at the time of the incident.

William G. Roll, project director of Psychical Research Foundation in Durham, N.C., said, "I can give no interpretation of the incident at this time."

Roll, a parapsychologist, said the incident occurred at 5:20 p.m. while he was in the house on field study with the occupants of the frame dwelling—Charles Daughtery, his wife Annie, 78, and their 12-year-old great-grandson, Cleveland "Tony" Daughtery.

The noise of the shattering was heard in front of the house by a newsman and Police Sgt. R. H. Pierce.

OUR IN HOUSE

Roll, who arrived at Norfolk Municipal Airport about noon, spent three hours questioning the Daughtery family at a secret hideaway and one hour in the house on Florida Avenue.

He asked them to recount incidents that have occurred there since Thursday. Incidents reported include flying crockery, a carpet that rose from the floor under its own steam, and people melted with a dish, tomatoes, and a bottle.

Vases reportedly have rounded corners and smashed walls. A tool jumped up and knocked out a light bulb, and baskets have turned upside down by themselves, the occupants said.

Roll said, "We are interested in the case from a parapsychological point of view, for the possibility that parapsychological factors are at work."

Parapsychology is the branch of psychology that studies thought transference, mental telepathy

and other unusual happenings.

Roll, who studied the famous Seaford, L.I., and Jackson, Mich., cases, said he is interested in this case particularly because of studies made by the foundation of "recurrent spontaneous psychokinesis (RSPK) — mind over matter."

He said, "We have made experimental studies of subjects that attempt to influence the fall of dice. Many parapsychologists feel that there is experimental evidence for psychokinesis in tests that are evaluated statistically."

He said scientists have watched men tossing dice with attempts to influence mentally the outcome.

"The effects are always very weak, however, and we undertake field investigations to study more striking occurrences that may possibly involve psychokinesis and hence learn more about it."

Roll, a native of Denmark, will be here only as long as the public and newsmen leave the house and its occupants alone, he said.

PRAISE FOR PUBLIC

He praised the Portsmouth police department, which has blocked off the area and arrested numerous people, and the public, which avoided visits to the house Tuesday while investigations were being made.

Mrs. Daughtery, who has chased hundreds of curiosity-seekers away from the home, has made a plea that the public stay away from her home. She said Tuesday, "I hope they stay away so this scientist can find out what causes it."

Her husband is ill—with high blood pressure and high sugar count—and will enter McGuire Veterans Hospital, Richmond, today.

Police have estimated that more than 20,000 people have visited the Daughtery home by foot or by car since the incidents began six days ago.

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William G. Roll, parapsychologist from Durham, N.C., ponders strange happenings at Portsmouth house.

He experienced an activity first hand